

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today helped the House pass a bill to create hundreds of thousands of new small business and construction jobs this year, spur private sector hiring, and help rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. The bipartisan Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act is part of a larger congressional agenda Hinchey has been supporting to create jobs and strengthen the economy.

"The economy has definitely started to turn around from the damage inflicted upon it over the last decade, but there are still far too many people who are looking for work or barely hanging onto their job. This legislation provides real incentives to businesses to create and retain jobs for unemployed workers and invests in school and transportation infrastructure projects that will create jobs in our communities while improving the quality of life for everyone," Hinchey said. "This bill is part of an ongoing and comprehensive effort in Congress to stimulate the economy so that we can create jobs now and in the future while enhancing the communities in which we live."

The HIRE Act includes a payroll tax holiday for businesses that hire unemployed workers to create some 300,000 jobs and an income tax credit of \$1,000 for businesses that retain these employees. It also includes tax incentives to help small businesses invest, expand, and hire more workers; provisions to make it easier for states to take up infrastructure projects such as school construction and energy retrofitting; and an extension of the Highway Trust Fund that allows for billions of dollars in infrastructure development around the country.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has already saved or created more than 2 million jobs – rebuilding our infrastructure and economy for global competitiveness. Through the Recovery Act, 95 percent of working Americans continue to see the benefit of one of the largest tax cuts in history in every paycheck. With Hinchey's support, the House also passed the comprehensive Jobs for Main Street Act to make targeted investments in areas that will grow our economy over the long term – including highways, public transit, construction, small businesses, job training, and hiring and retaining teachers, police officers, and firefighters.